

# How Jesus Is Known to Us

*Promise: Jesus comes to us in Word and Sacrament*

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Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 116:1-14; 1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35

(Third Sunday of Easter, 4/23/23)

*Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. — v. 35*

**Lead In** – Jesus became known to the two Emmaus disciples in the breaking of the bread, but not before the Scriptures had been explicated to them. We rightly detect a rhythm here that Lutherans describe as Word and Sacrament and which we believe structures the Divine Service to which we are gathered every Lord's Day.

## I. Seasoned Conversation on the Road to Emmaus

- A. The admonition in Deuteronomy 6...
- B. 7 mile walk without cell phones...
- C. Sincere, despairing, unenlightened conversation...

## II. The Interpretation of Scripture Matters

- A. Foolish and slow of heart to believe...
- B. And beginning with Moses and the prophets...
- C. The later reflection on the effect on the heart...

## III. Visible, Tangible Moment of Recognition

- A. Service of Light at Evening Prayer, Stay with us...
- B. The guest has suddenly become the host!
- C. If not Lord's Supper, certainly pointing to it...

**Parting Shot** – In every way this account should be most comforting to us. How easily our hopes and aspirations are dashed, and we are saddened and threatened with despair. How true that we are often foolish and slow of heart to believe. And yet God sends messengers bearing His Word whether we at first perceive Jesus or not. But that does not preclude the Gospel coming to us. That does not stop Baptism bestowing new life and the gift of the Holy Spirit. And that does not prevent Christ's body and blood being present at the altar in His meal. His Word can do a work on our hearts, and His Visible Word, His Sacraments, can open eyes, hearts, and minds to the One who is our salvation.

**Dt 6:7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

**1Co 2:14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

**Jn 5:39** You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me

**Ac 2:37** Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

**Ro 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

**Ro 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

# Luke 24:13-25 ESV

*On the Road to Emmaus*

<sup>13</sup> That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup> but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" <sup>33</sup> And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup> saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**2Ti 3:15** How from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**Mt 14:19** Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

**Mk 14:22** And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."